LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT AS TO THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS FOR THE YEAR 1941.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of the
DISS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mrs. Holker and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 1941 which, in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions, has been considerably curtailed.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. O'B. VINCENT,

Medical Officer of Health,
Diss Urban District.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area(in acres) ... ... 3,628 (including water).

Population:-

These figures are not published this year on the grounds of national security, according to Ministry of Health instructions. (Circular 2604 dated 24th March 1942)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books ... 1,049

Rateable Value £16,186

Sum represented by a penny rate ..£64. 2. 1.

Social Conditions.

Any improvement in housing conditions is at present in abeyance.

Unemployment has been very markedly reduced.

Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	35	21.	14.	Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population: 9.81
	Illegitimate	3	2.	1.	
Stillbirths	Legitimate	2.	1.	1.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births:- 10.38
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths		42.	16.	26.	Rate per 1000 estimated average population:- 10.9
Deaths of infants under one year of age.		3.	2.	1.	Death rate per 1000 live births:- 78.94
Deaths from puerperal causes		-	-	-	
Deaths from cancer (all ages)		8.	4.	4.	
Deaths from measles (all ages)		-	-	-	
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)		-	-	-	
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		-	-	-	

Again the death rate is slightly in excess of the Birth Rate, but considering the severe winter and war conditions the general health has been good.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SEVICES FOR THE AREA.

See report for the year 1940.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Closet Accommodation.

1. Number converted from Privy-Pail Closets ... Nil

   Number converted from Privy-Vault Closets ... Nil

   Number of new W.Cs connected to Sewers ... 1

2. Number of Closets of each type remaining at the end of Year:

   Number of Privy-Vaults (fixed type) 71

   Pail Closets (removeable receptacles) ... 292

   Water Closets (houses, bungalows, cottages, shops and offices) 720

   Water Closets (estimated) in schools and other buildings 61

Scavenging.

The scavenging of the district is done by contract and includes the weekly collection and disposal of the contents of dustbins, privy-pails and privy-vault closets as and when required.

Particulars of work year 1941.

	No. emptied.	Loads removed.
Pail closets emptied weekly	292	328
Dustbins " "	634	971
Privy-Vault closets	53	58
Dust-bins (fixed type)	2	9
Accumulation of dry refuse	1	1
		1367

Summary:- (a) Excreta .... 386 loads removed.

(b) Dry refuse ... 981 loads removed.

Number of inspections made in respect of scavenging work ... 425

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

1. Number of inspections with particulars:-

Housing	101
Scavenging	425
Drainage	215
Markets	192
Factories	84
Infectious Diseases	57
Slaughterhouses	372
ditto with Medical Officer	3
Cowsheds	32
Dairies	46
Vans used for human habitation	22
Shops Act, 1934	336
Salvage	628
Evacuees	129
	2642

2. Notices:-

Number of Formal Preliminary Notices	16
Number of Informal Notices	9
Number of statutory notices	1
	26

3. Nuisances:-

Complaints received	7
Found on inspection	21
	28
Number abated by Informal Notices	12
Number abated by formal notice	16
	28

Shops and Offices ... Shops Act 1934

Number of inspections during the year 1941 ...	326
Number of shops entered on the Register ...	90
Number of Offices in the District	17

The following defects were found during the year 1941:-

Insufficient lighting	Nil
Cleansing of premises	5
Unsuitable lavatory accommodation	1
Insufficient ventilation	Nil
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	Nil
Defective lavatory accommodation	6
	12

Number of Notices not complied with at 31st December 1940	2
Number of Informal Notices served during the year	8
Number of defects remedied upon verbal request of Inspector	4
	14

All the Offices in the district are provided with proper means of heating, lighting, ventilation, and sanitary accommodation.

Camping Sites.

There are no sites available, or used, as camping sites, or for the purposes of camping in this area.

Vans used for human habitation.

During the year 22 visits of inspection were made of Vans used for human habitation. All the vans visited were found in a satisfactory condition.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools open for the use of the public in this area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The houses found to be infested and dealt with are as follows:-

(a) Council Houses..... Nil (b) Other houses 1

Disinfestation of Fleas.

The number of houses found to be infested:-

(a) Council Houses ..... Nil (b) Other houses 3

Disinfection and Cleansing.

Number of visits in case of infectious disease	57
Number of rooms disinfected	12
Number of cottages cleansed before re-occupation	4

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and housing Acts) 35

Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 101

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 - 1932 5

Number of inspections made for the purpose 21

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 28

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer 33

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after formal notices:-
(a) By Owners 6
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 9
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after formal notices:-
(a) By Owners 9
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. ... Nil

(e) Proceedings under Section 38 sub-section 1 of the Public health Act, 1936.
Number of dangerous and dilapidated buidlings in respect of which informal Notices were served requiring demolition 1

Number of dangerous and dilapidated buildings demolished in compliance with Informal Notice:-
(a) By Owners 1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING

1. Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded 31st December 1941.	1
2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year.	4
3. Number of cases relieved during the year	3
4. Number of persons concerned in such cases	21
5. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil
6. Total number of dwelling-houses surveyed for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1936 Part IV to the 31st December 1941	854

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of inspections made of Cowsheds and Dairies	78
Number of inspections with Medical Officer	Nil
Number of samples taken during the year for "Accredited" standard	13
Number of samples taken during the year for "T.T." test	6

(Two samples failed the Methylene Blue test but repeat samples were in each case satisfactory)

Number of registrations in the District:-	
Retail Purveyors of Milk	18
Producers and cowkeepers	9
	27

During the year the following improvements have been made:-

One Cowshed has been re-constructed,
One Cowshed has been re-conditioned.
New drainage has been constructed on 3 premises.

Number of dealers' licences issued authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised". ... ... 1.

Meat.

Diss is a slaughtering centre under the provisions of Memoranda and Orders issued by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Food.

The duties of inspection are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who holds the Membership Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute (by examination).

Particulars of inspections are as follows:-

No. of visits by Inspector to slaughterhouse ...	372
No. of visits with Medical Officer of health ...	3
	375

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected:-

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
General	955	524	2054	51	1094	4678
Casualties.	51	6	7	1	107	172

Weights of Meat condemned as being unfit for food and for which condemn notes were issued accordingly:-

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
1. All diseases except Tuberculosis:-						
(a) Whole carcases.	7	-	6	1	2	16
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	109	3	19	-	53	184
2. Tuberculosis only:-						
(a) Whole carcases	8	1	-	-	5	14
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	50	-	-	-	-	50

3. Weights:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis.	3.	11.	98½
(b) Tuberculosis only	3.	13.	23
	7.	5.	9½

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Mumps was rather prevalent at the end of the year; scarlet fever and whooping cough also occurred in a number of cases.

English measles became an epidemic in the first half of the year. The number of cases notified was high but the course of the disease was rarely of a severe type. Two schools were closed for a few days on this account.

Scabies was prevalent at the end of the year but the number of cases soon diminished.

All these infectious diseases can be attributed to the temporary influx of population.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation was undertaken by local Medical Practitioners privately and at the schools. In the majority of cases the course of immunisation was completed, most of those not completed being evacuees who returned during their course.

From January 1st - December 31st 1941 the following children received a full course:-

	Under 5.	5 and over but under 15.
	26	507
Estimated average population:-	265	860
Percentage immunised:-	9.81%	58.95%

Although the number of the higher age group immunized was reasonably satisfactory, the number under five was definitely low.

Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Disease.	Total cases notifed.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	9	8	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Measles.	179	-	-
Whooping Cough	20	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-

An analysis of the Total Notified Cases.

Age Periods.	Scarlet Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia.	Whooping Cough.
0 -	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	2
2 -	-	-	-	3
3 -	-	-	-	1
4 -	-	-	-	3
5 -	6	-	-	8
10 -	3	-	-	3
15 -	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-
65 & over.	-	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2.	-	1	-	2	-	-	-

NOTE:
SECTIONS C, D & E are taken from the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.